

Appl No. New  
Preliminary Amendment

**REMARKS**

Claims 5 and 13 have been canceled. Claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14 remain active in the case.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compounds and salts thereof which are especially useful in the treatment of autoimmune diseases.

The claims of the present divisional application have been amended in view of the restriction requirement in parent application Serial No. 09/893,698 filed June 29, 2001. Accordingly, the new claims, except for Claims 12 and 14, are limited to bridging radicals (4) and (5). Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

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It is now believed that the application is in proper condition for consideration on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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